

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
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# PRESS RELEASE

May 27, 2004

**RE: UNITED STATES v. PRESTON L. VOIERS**

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that Preston L. Voiers, 22, of Cleveland, Ohio, pled guilty to bank robbery before United States District Court Judge William M. Skretny. The a maximum penalty is 20 years imprisonment and fine of \$250,000.00.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Trini E. Ross said Voiers admitted his part in the robbery that occurred last March 15<sup>th</sup> at the HSBC branch at 1675 Walden Avenue in Cheektowaga. Voiers admitted that he was the get-away driver for the bank robbery while Wayne Eugene Sivert entered the bank and robbed it. Sivert gave the bank manager a demand note, which said that Sivert had a bomb, and that, unless the manager summoned the vault teller, Sivert would blow up the building, and that he (Sivert) was willing to die. Sivert then showed the manager a device that appeared to be a bomb.

The manager complied with Sivert's demand and took Sivert to the bank's vault, where Sivert took approximately \$100,000.00. Sivert then left the bank and went to the vehicle, where Voiers awaited him. The two men attempted to drive away, but they were alertly spotted by officers from the Cheektowaga Police Department, who arrested Sivert and Voiers.

Sivert entered a guilty plea April 13, 2004 to the same robbery. Sivert's sentencing is scheduled for August 24 before Judge Skretny. Voiers will be sentenced by Judge Skretny this September 29.

The guilty pleas were the result of the work of the Cheektowaga Police Department, under the direction of Police Chief Christine Ziembra and an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter Ahearn.

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